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OGC 70-1776

21 October 1970

Executive Registry

70-5149/1

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Support

SUBJECT: Request for Information from Black  
United Front

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1. [ ] has been trying to find out what DOD is doing on their inquiry from the Black United Front on the typewriters and apparently DOD has lost the letter since it was returned to them by GSA. No one seems to know who is handling it or what, if anything, is going to be done about it. Harry Van Cleve of GSA told Ollie where the letter had been sent and even that office apparently has no record.

2. I talked to the Office of Legal Counsel in Justice who handles general policy and specific lawsuits under the Freedom of Information bill. They agree that the letter we received, as worded, does not come under the technicalities of the bill as it does not request a specific record and we are not under any compulsion to prepare special reports to answer requests under the bill. However, if the BUF wanted to press the matter they could request specific requisitions and such things as service contracts and unless they were classified for a good reason we would have to produce them. We could charge a reasonable fee for the work involved.

3. I still think that some sort of response, possibly more general than the one I have drafted, might stave off a specific inquiry. Justice told me that the ICC had received a similar letter about a year ago and they had recommended that some sort of forthcoming response be made but do not know and have not been able to find out how the matter was actually handled. Sorry this is rather inconclusive, but let us know if we can do anything more on it.

[ ]  
General Counsel

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